

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TUNIS 05370 301250Z

65

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 301227Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3693

S E C R E T TUNIS 5370

EXDIS

DEPT PASS DOD/JCS/ISA

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR PINR TU LY US

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S MEETING WITH
TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR HEDDA, JULY 27, 1976

REF: STATE 187422 AND TUNIS 5329

1. PARA 9, STATE REFTEL REPORTS THAT POSSIBILITY WAS
DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR HEDDA OF SENDING GOT MILITARY

MISSION TO WASHINGTON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, EVEN BEFORE
MID-AUGUST IF FEASIBLE. I WAS ABOUT TO REPLY THAT I
BELIEVED IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO STICK WITH ORIGINAL
SCHEDULE, SO THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD BE ADEQUATELY PREPARED.
HOWEVER, WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED SECDEF MESSAGE (292119Z
JUL 76) ADVISING THAT FOR VAIETY OF REASONS THERE
WOULD BE LITTLE UTILITY IN WASHINGTON MEETING EVEN
AS EARLY AS MID-AUGUST. WE WILL BE IN CLOSE CONTACT
WITH TUNISIAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERSHIP OVER
NEXT FEW DAYS, IN CONNECTION WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AND WE WILL URGE THEM TO SEE
THT EVERYTHING NECESSARY IS BEING DONE AT THIS END
TO MOVE CHAPARRAL MISSILE BUY ALONG AS QUICKLY AS
POSSIBLE. WE WILL REPORT ANY DEVELOPMENTS THROUGH
APPROPRIATE CHANNELS.

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2. REF STATE TEL ALSO REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR HEDDA TOLD UNDERSECRETARY HABIB THAT GOT REQUIRES U.S. SPARE PARTS AND THAT HE URGED ACCELERATED DELIVERY OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, HEDDA HAS A HABIT OF ADDRESSING MILITARY PROCUREMENT MATTERS IN GENERAL RATHER THAN SPECIFIC TERMS. THIS MAY BE PARTICULARLY THE CASE NOW WITH TUNISIAN MILITARY ATTACHE WASHINGTON HERE IN TUNISIA WORKING ON MATTERS FROM THIS END. FOR THE RECORD, ALMOST ALL OF REQUESTED U.S. SPARE PARTS HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED IN TUNISIA AND WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH TUNISIAN MILITARY TO GET THEM WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. HOLD UP ON COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN BY TUNISIANS AT THIS END. WE ARE NOW INFORMED THAT DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER BENNOUR SIGNED NECESSARY PAPERS JULY 23 AND THAT THEY WILL BE HANDCARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY COLONEL OUESLATI. CHUSLOT SENDING SEPARATE MESSAGE THROUGH DOD CHANNELS DOCUMENTING IN MORE DETAIL PRECISELY WHERE WE STAND ON QUESTIONS OF SPARE PARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

3. IN NEXT CONVERSATIONS WITH HEDDA AT STATE OR DEFENSE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO BRING HEDDA UP-TO-DATE ON ACTUAL SITUATION.
MULCAHY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DODE.

SECRET

NNN

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